

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06523 081409Z
ACTION SPTA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 06523

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PQ, PN, US
SUBJECT: MEETING OF PRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION

REFERENCE: PANAMA 6213

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PANAMA REVIEW
COMMITTEE'S SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7.

A. COLONEL WALLER SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT A SEPTEMBER 6
MEETING BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARD AND SOUTHCOM OFFICERS.
AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING, SOUTHCOM CONCLUDED THAT
THE GUARD PERCEIVES ITS TREATY-PLANNING ROLE TO BE
MAINLY IN THE MILITARY, NOT CIVIL, AREA. THE EXTENT
OF ITS INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL QUESTIONS (WHERE THE U.S.
MILITARY IS INVOLVED) IS NOT YET CLEAR, THOUGH THE
GUARD REALIZES IT WILL BE SMALL.

B. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLICITY
WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO AN OIL SPILL AT THE PACIFIC
ENTRANCE TO THE CANAL. CONLEY SAID THAT THE
PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED
OF THE SPILL, BUT WERE NOT. HE AGREED THAT SUCH
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06523 081409Z

NOTIFICATION TO PANAMA SHOULD BE SOP. TAYLOR SAID
THAT THE AMERICAN DESK OFFICER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS PREPARING A PROTEST NOTE ON
THIS QUESTION; TAYLOR ASKED FOR FULL INFORMATION
ON THE INCIDENT TO HEAD OFF, OR AT LEAST RESPOND TO,
THE NOTE.

C. THE TROPIC TEST CENTER HAS BEEN ASKED TO BEGIN

SPADE WORK FOR A NEGOTIATING PLAN. TAYLOR WILL BE MEETING WITH TROPIC TEST CENTER SEPTEMBER 7. THE GOAL IS STILL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN LATE OCTOBER. (THE QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN RAISED WITH PANAMA YET.)

D. CONLEY SAID THAT GOV. PARFITT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM PANCANAL EMPLOYEES THAT THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY U.S. INCOME TAX, NOTWITHSTANDING TREATY LANGUAGE ON THE QUESTION.

E. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF OTHER QUESTIONS, INCLUDING AN OFFICER EXCHANGE PLAN BETWEEN PANCANAL AND THE EMBASSY, AND THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF GENERAL DOLVIN AND AMBASSADOR POPPER. DIKEOS

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